Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 8, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'00/ Month'99	Comments
Building Permits ($ millions)	October			Total building permits increased by 18.1% in Alberta in October. Residential and non-residential permits increased by 17.6% and 18.7% respectively. Nationally, during the first ten months, building permits were up 7.8% over the same period in 1999, while Alberta building permits increased 14.4% (6.3% for residential and 25.5% for non-residential).
Alberta	505.2	18.1%	27.3%	
Canada	3,137.5	-6.8%	5.5%	
Industrial Capacity Utilization Rates	3Q, 2000 86.9%	-0.1% [a]	1.5% [b]	In 3Q, 2000, the utilization of Canada's industrial capacity eased after seven consecutive quarterly increases due to decreased output and increased capacity. Industrial capacity rates have remained high for prolonged period of time, igniting concerns about production constraints.
[a] From 2st quarter 2000 [b] From 3nd quarter 1999				
Housing Starts (Centers 10,000+)	November			Total housing starts increased 13.5% in Alberta in November. Year over year monthly change was also 13.5%. Canada housing starts declined 5.5% in November, equivalent to a negative 2.6% change from a previous period. For the first 11 months of this year housing starts were up 7% compared to the same period last year.
Alberta	23,600	13.5%	15.7%	
Canada	155,800	-5.5%	-2.6%	
Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	November			The help-wanted index is a measure of firms' intentions to hire new workers rather than giving overtime to existing employees. The index for Quebec (-0.6%) fell in November. Alberta (3.5), Ontario (2.6), British Columbia (2.0%), New Brunswick (2.6%), and Prince Edward Island (2.6%) had the largest gains. Alberta (20.4%) had the second highest year over year increase behind Prince Edward Island (21.2%).
Alberta	177	3.5%	20.4%	
Canada	181	1.7%	9.0%	